

Can Females give Pancaratrika Mantras and become diksa-gurus?

by, Damodara Das | 6 Oct. 2020

A philosophy has come up that:

- In Vedic times, upanayana ceremony was done at the age of 8 and father or any brahmana could do that. But the diksa with Pancaratrika mantras was later on in youth, after which one gets eligibility for worshipping the deities.
- Thus, there were different gurus for upanayana and pancaratrika initiations even in vedic times. Lord Caitanya received upanayana at age 8 and when he was young he received diksa from Isvara Puri. His two gurus were different.
- Srila Prabhupada (actually Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura) combined these two as the second initiation ceremony, because they were giving diksa to those who were not born in dvija families, although, that was not the tradition.
- Thus, women are not allowed to receive and thus give upanayana. But they can give pancaratrika diksa and Hari-nama. So they can become diksa-guru although they do not have sacred thread, which renders the sacred thread argument as straw like.

Although majority of these points are correct, but the connection that is forced upon it with Female diksa-guru lacks any base in guru-sadhu-sastra. Which pancaratra sastra says that females can give pancaratrika diksa? None. Sri Vaisnavism is fully based on pancaratrika process of initiation; they too have two fold initiation: upanayana and diksa (they call it bhara-nyasa). But do they have FDGs in any initiation? No.

Thus, although upanayana- and diksa-gurus may be different, it doesn't prove that Females can become anyone of these gurus; they cannot. Narada Pancaratra is the sastra on which our initiation system is based, "The students and disciples are initiated according to authorized pancaratric regulations."¹ "Therefore the Pāñcarātriki-vidhi is accepted. Nārada-Pañcarātra. Tathā dīkṣā-vidhānena. This dīkṣā-vidhāna, recommended by Sanātana Gosvāmī, means Pāñcarātriki-vidhi."²

Narada Pancaratra (Bharadvaja Samhita)³ says that "women can never become diksa-gurus"⁴ and that they may become a type of *siksa-guru* by giving "moral and ethical instructions."⁵

Conclusion: Even as per pancaratrika-diksa, women cannot become diksa-gurus, either giving first diksa, second diksa or upanayana. They can receive⁶ but not give pancaratrika mantras.

¹ To know more about our initiation system being based on Narada Pancaratra See:

[In SP's time, other vaisnava sampradayas declare ISKCON's diksa is based on Narada Pancaratra and thus bona fide Vaisnava-diksa according to Narada Pancaratra – Book by Krishna Kirti Dasa, Damodara Dasa, Part-1](#)

² NoD, Vrindavana, Oct 27, 1972

³ To know how Bharadvaja Samhita is Narada Pancaratra and its authenticity click [here](#)

⁴ *na jātu mantra-dā nārī* (BS 1.42) and, *nārhanṭy-ācāryatām kvacit* (BS 1.42)

⁵ *bodhayeyur-hitāhitam* (BS 1.43)

⁶ For reference to this click [here](#)